ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN

ISSUE #5 / 50¢ -- 25p

IN THIS ISSUE: Bigfoot Tracking--"Profile of a Kid UFOlogist"--Fortean Chronology 1977: The Year In Review Thus Far--Along With Data, News & Views Of The Most Remarkable Type!

STALKING AMERICA'S ELUSIVE "BIGFOOT".

ANOMALY RESEARCH BULLETIN

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A FEW WORDS ON CONTRIBUTIONS, DELAYS, & SUBSCRIPTIONS . . .

Contributions of material are still (and always will be) needed. When sending newspaper clippings be sure to identify the source, giving yourself credit at the same time. Complete articles and reports are needed for publication. All articles must be double-spaced for editing purposes. Illustrations and photographs are always helpful, and we will use offset printing to accomodate these.

This issue was slightly delayed for several reasons, the foremost being that I was working on a research project concerning the distribution of Michigan creature sightings. Results of this study will be published in a future ARB.

For some reason, many readers still haven't received ARB4. For some, more than a month-and-a-half have passed, and . . . nothing. In order to remedy this unfortunate situation, all copies of ARB will be mailed First Class (or Bulk Rate) from now on. If you haven't received ARB4 yet, please inform the Editor immediately and we'll mail another copy. We're going to keep mailing these out until they are received.

Since some subscriptions expire with this issue, readers are urged to check the number that appears after their name on the mailing label. If the number reads, "5," which is this issue, your subscription is due as this is your last issue. If your subscription expires with ARB6 it's probably a good idea to renew early, thus avoiding any delay.

-----David Fideler

* * * * * *

---L E T T E R S---

All letters received (or sections thereof) are subject to publication. If you do not want your letter to be published please make a note of this. Your name will be withheld if requested.

Dear Dave,

I've been asked many times on precisely how does one go about tracking a Bigfoot and thought perhaps ARB readers might be interested in a few tips from those of use who have had close-in encounters. If you're a "tenderfoot," be sure to read a manual on backpacking and survival.

Equipment is fairly standard as with UFO field equipment: a good camera (black & white film is preferred over color); tape recorder (with fresh batteries); tape measure; a bucket and water for mixing plaster for casts; and an aerosol can of any kind for darkening the print before photographing as well as setting the soil prior to pouring plaster. It takes about 10 pounds of plaster for one cast. Hydrostone (a hobby shop

item) sets quickly.

Choosw your companions wisely - know how they will react in stress conditions. You don't want your "buddy" streaking and screaming through the woods just because he heard a coyote howl! Small groups have a better chance than do large ones. A party of 3 or 4 is best. Go to an area of recent sightings - don't expect the creature to come to you just because you figure he should be around. Talk to nearby residents - have they heard anything unusual, etc. Rangers, however, are likely to discourage interviews of this type.

Plan to stay awake all night and if it's a prime area, outpost it for as many nights as you can afford. Hold down anxieties - the creatures can sense this and won't come in close. Music is okay if soft and fires can attract if small. Throwing beer cans out the window of your car is not cool.

A body of water is a good place to check for fresh prints as they are never too far away from streams and so on. Check topo maps for mines, fault lines, caves, caverns, and quarries. In other words, know your area and its wildlife cold. Check trees for foraging and breakage. Guns can be a handicap. Full moon conditions are the best.

Okay, you've found a region of repeat sightings. Ramona Hibner of Brooksville, Florida, one of the most experienced Bigfoot trackers has this to offer: "The best bait is either bread or salt. He will not take sugar here, bites into it and spits it out. He will eat loaves and loaves of bread, preferably the old fashioned kind like grandma made (whole wheat flour in it). Hang it from limbs high enough so bears and deer cannot reach it. Use a string or monofilament fishing line. Do the same with salt. Hang it in a clearing as high up as 8 feet and then leave it. Don't go near it. Let him choose his own time about it but they will eat it here on the spot. Their lack of salt intake makes this one of the best baits."

Once you've got him coming in, then set up your trip cameras.

There are several taped BF cries and screams floating around and attempts to use these as a "lure" seem to fail. We simple do not know what they are "saying" and by playing a loop of them, you may be sending out the signal, "Danger, stay away!" A loop of a baby crying, however, is worth a try.

A good healthy optimism is an asset, along with plain old common sense. Certainly each region and incident has its own individuality and I'd be glad to answer specific questions from ARB readers, as well as hearing about current tracking efforts.

Wishing ARB continued success.

Ann (B. Ann Slate, 10347 Whipple Street, North Hollywood, California 91602)

Lou Wiedemann's report on Vestigia's spooklight experiment brought in a lot of mail. One of the more interesting comments was received from James Moseley, who

wrote: "...I went ghost-light hunting in South Carolina once, several years ago, with Timothy Green Beckley. There, to, the light is supposed to appear along a stretch of railroad track. Beckley and I split up, each with a flashlight - and eventually, I saw the light - behaving just as the legend said it should - moving from side to side as it floated above the track, and then moving off to one side and disappearing. I ran up to where the light had disappeared and found Beckley cursing in a ravine, which he had just fallen into. Yes, he was the source of the light - at least that time."

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Dear David,

I want to thank you for your sending me your truly outstanding publication. I am always highly pleased to see material by Lou Wiedemann and Curt Sutherly in print.

For whatever it's worth, I'd like to chime in my two cents share on the MUFON/Bill Pitts controversy.

First of all, I want to take note of a rather remarkable phenomenon about the current disputations within UFOlogy. They seem to take on the same, strange emotionalism inside UFO circles that has long existed between the UFO-believers and the skeptics over the issue of 'are UFOs real or not'. It is as if people were talking about 'academic' issues, but with a display of emotionalism which betrays that something far, far more fundamental lies beneath the surface. It seems that all sides have and emotional stake in their respective vantage points; a stake of a rather profound - though difficult to get at - nature. Incidentally, I by no means exclude myself from this process; rather, I do indeed see it working within my own character-structure, and wonder at it.

Regarding MUFON, my own criticisms of that organisation are primarily sociopolitical rather than theoretical. It seems to me that one of the major (though unsung) issues in UFOlogy is whether a popular-folkic interest-area, filled with numinosity and wonder, will be coopted by established scientific institutions and dovetailed into the middle american "machine ethic." As I oppose the latter, I oppose organisations such as MUFON which appear to contribute to the "emasculasation" of UFOlogy. I don't expect middle american-types in UFOlogy to even understand this line of thinking, but, fortunately, UFOlogy does not consist entirely of UFOlogical Richard Nixons.

As to Bill Pitts, while at the big Fort Smith conference I nothed that he was attmpting to keep the peace between establishment UFO groups, when I asked him if I could display a (very small) poster offering a dissenting opinion ("NO UFOLOGY MONOPOLY - The Fort Smith Manifesto"), he indicated to me that he 'didn't know where I could put it up.' Yet, when I arrived across the street at the auditorium, APRO had on display a couple of HUGE posters, and there was plenty of room for mine. I had to settle for proping it up against a seat on my own. Incidently, the APRO posters contained the patently false statement that they'd put on the first UFO symposium. The history of the big UFO groups is riddled with this kind of underhanded tactics,

which has gotten far too little publicity within UFOlogy. Middle UFOlogists such as myself will continue to oppose such tactics and/or policies. (I could furnish you with a whole list of them.)

Anyway, David, again, I am enjoying your journal very much, and I hope to see much, much more of it in the future.

Sincerely,

A (Allen H. Greenfield, 1399 de Beers Drive #6, Tampa, Florida 33612)

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Infraterrestrials, Pro & Con:

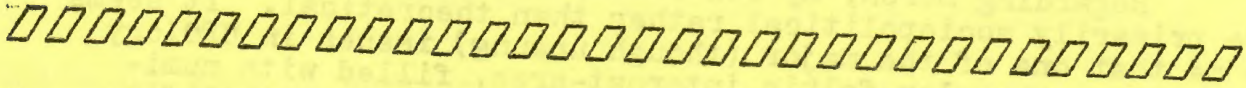
Pro: "Forgot to mention in my recent missive that before your issue mysteriously disappeared, I did indeed read the dwarf parody, and greatly enjoyed same."

Pro: "By the way, I really enjoyed Miller's infraterrestrial article/story. This sort of thing is always good to publish now and again. I suspect that, in between the obvious satire, Miller is trying to day that he really believes some of this stuff about Fortean phenomena feeding on itself. And I agree. You may tell him I said 'Well done.'"

Pro: "...Rather liked the "infraterrestrials" item by "Sash"/Miller! Anything else coming up by him?..."

Con: "...I read that article, "I was Held Captive by the Infraterrestrials" and was not impressed. It must have slipped by you. As a researcher and investigator I am sure you can understand my position on those types of stories..."

Con: "...I must say I wish you wouldn't run fiction. Even funny fiction, as this was. It just tends to degrade the high tone of the rest of the newsletter."



Here it is: for the first time anywhere, Sutherly spills his guts!

PROFILE OF A KID UFOLOGIST

by

Curt Sutherly

"Now as you know, Serious Researchers just do not go around meeting with UFOs. They are very dedicated when it comes to reading about them, and talking about them, but anybody who actually sees one is automatically placed in the category of crackpot.

"This viewpoint is so prevasive that when one of our other speakers (who prefers to remain anonymous) saw two UFOs

over the motel before the Conference (red and green and white lights, falling leaf motion), he wouldn't even mention it. We never would have known if his companion hadn't spilled the beans. On hearing of this, another speaker said he wouldn't have mentioned it, either!"

--Geneva Steinberg,
writing in the Sept.-Oct.
1974 issue of
Caveat Emptor--

Geneva Steinberg was pretty close to the mark when she penned her flippant-sounding remarks for Caveat Emptor, a magazine of Forteana now defunct. UFOlogists are largely a closed-mouth bunch, especially with regard to their own sightings--if any.

Of course there are the fast-buck artists who are always willing--for example--to point out that they've seen or know someone who saw the flying saucer the air force allegedly captured in 1948 (this story has never been substantiated to any degree). Close examination generally reveals the somewhat shady nature of these individuals.

Then there are the contactees, the unfortunates who can only believe that they've been carried to Venus by saucer pilots with benevolent intentions. There persons more likely than not did experience some form of paranormal manifestation, but probably not an honest-to-gosh physical spaceship and crew. Ridicule and derision are usually the reward granted the contactees for their "flight into space."

As for the close-mouthed UFOlogists: I can personally vouch for the existance of this breed of character. I wince everytime I'm asked if I've ever seen a flying saucer.

But let's begin at the begining. How--and why--does one become embroiled in UFO research? When asked this, I often think of a line once written by Edgar Allen Poe, and which reads: "In my childhood--in the dawn of a most stormy life--was drawn from ev'ry depth of good and ill the mystery which binds me still . . ."

As a student in junior high school, I had read many books on UFOs, flying saucers, or whatever one prefers to call them, and was captivated by the implications of such tales. For the first time in my youthful life, I came face-to-face with the knowledge that perhaps Rocky Jones and Buck Rogers-style science fiction might have a factual counterpart. My mind became filled with notions of aerial combat between the USAF and Martians.

But my interest goes back even further. For me, the mystery began one morning at the breakfast table . . .

I had awakened early, having heard the sound of my parents downstairs in heated debate. Slipping quickly down the steps, I settled before the kitchen table and was soon caught-up in talk of strange "flying disks."

From what I can recall of the conversations, my mother was arguing that the flying saucers--whatever they were--had to be real (solid). Too many people were seeing them, she had said, and besides, they were overflying automobiles, the result being stalled engines.

My father on the other hand was equally certain that the objects were nothing more than wild imaginations running loose. He reflected that in all his years on the highway (as a truck driver), he had never seen anything he couldn't explain as natural or normal. (His attitude was only recently changed when he observed a pair of white lights--which he said looked like auto headlights--ghosting quietly through the sky above a highway in Eastern Pennsylvania.)

Curiously enough, while it took many years to convince my father that something anomalous is indeed going on in the airways of our world, he, like many Pennsylvania Dutchmen, somehow finds witchcraft not so difficult to understand . . .

As the years went by, I gradually gathered an extensive knowledge of UFO and Fortean lore, and on occasion discussed such subjects with some of my teachers, mentors many years my senior. Eventually I was branded as something of an oddball by others my age, and often became focus of ridicule. None of which hindered my interest; in fact, I was compelled to greater study. But I did become more reserved in my methods and generally refrained from discussing newly found information with other students.

At some time during that period, I first heard of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) and APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization), then the two leading UFO investigative bodies in this country. I managed to write to both organizations, curious as to the exact nature of their functions, and still recall my dismay at the seemingly large fee required to join.

Jackson Underkoffler, one of my science teachers, loaned me a large NICAP volume, which I kept for several weeks, copying illustrations, making notations, literally spellbound by what it contained. Sightings and alleged landing reports, encounters with "little humanoids," and even size and shape descriptions of the presumed visiting spaceships were part of the content. Only with most reluctance did I return the book.

After that I dug even harder into the school library. Finally exhausting that source, I went to the city (Lebanon, Pa.) library--via its then newly purchased bookmobile. I must have been a very familiar face . . .

In 1965 the entire country underwent a strong UFO "flap." A period of relative quiet followed during which newspapermen probably breathed a sigh of relief that the "silliness" of previous months was forgotten. The begining in March 1966 those same newsmen watched disbelieving as the whole thing soared out of control again. It was during this latter period that I personally saw one of the weird flying disks--while in Michigan and elsewhere oddly-lit saucers were giving Dr. J. Allen Hynek an unearned reputation as an air force flunky.*

Not being much for keeping records in those live-and-let-die days, I can't pin down the exact date during which I saw the object. That the observation occured in Sept. 1966 I do recall, on a very clear, warm Sunday afternoon. Strangely enough, I also recall the exact time of day: two p.m.

I and a high school pal, Elmer (Ben) Weaver, had been out joy-riding in my 1955 Ford. I had turned 16 only a few months before and driving was still a novel experience. The two-tone blue Ford had been sound for her years, and hid a 272 cubic inch police interceptor V8 beneath the hood. I remember once telling another high school chum, Charlie Stanley, that the car would turn 90 mph in a quarter mile. He had vigorously denied that such was possible even after I took him for a "test drive," the aftermath of which saw Charlie declare that the speedometer must have been faulty.

I'm getting away from the story.

Ben and I were driving a stretch of road overlooking our home town (Fredericksburg) when we saw the UFO. The hill upon which we traveled was--and still is--known by a variety of names; Windy Hill, Mortgage Hill, Millionaire Hill, the latter title stemming from the fact that whatever wealth F-burg has harbored over the years is, for the larger part, sitting on that hill.

The town's only real VIP has residence there--Pennsylvania State Senator Clarence Manbeck. Other local big-shots are also "in situ" there. I eventually came to know (in come cases too well so) many of these individuals in the capacity of newspaper correspondent, and lost whatever awe of them I may have had as a youth.

Lying at the base of Multiple-Name Hill is Farmer's Pride Airport, today more active than ever as a center for small aircraft from around the state. Manbeck is responsible for the original air strip, which he had built as a launch deck for his private airplane. But the airport gradually expanded with new hangers going up, the addition of a flying school, and countless pilots seeking berth for their respective planes.

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* Hynek was then the air force's UFO consultant and was misquoted as saying that the Michigan objects were swamp gas.

Again I seem to have strayed from the task at hand--which is to tell about this saucer.

Our speed as we came down the hill was about 40 mph (at least that's the speed limit on that road), and I was partially absorbed in watching the Cessna and Piper aircraft take off an land below us. At this time I spotted a flash of light in the sky directly ahead (in an easterly direction), and estimated the altitiude at not more than 3,000 feet. I studied the light for some while, thinking it was but another of the light aircraft making an approach to the field.

Abruptly, it took on altogether different preportions.

)to be continued(

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B O O K R E V I E W S . . . .

Editor's note: The next issue of ARB, which will be out in about a month-and-a-half will feature a large section of book reviews.

Exploring Psychic Phenomena: Beyond Mind and Matter by D. Scott Rogo. Theosophical Publishing House, P.O. Box 270, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, 168 pages, $3.75.

In this, the author's latest book, D. Scott Rogo has produced a remarkable work. The excellence stems from his experience in the field as a researcher and writer. He breaks down each subject into its main points of interest without using high flown prases or piles of case histories. The basic rudiments of parapsychology are brought to the attention of the reader without getting into esoteric teachings and categories. Moreover, Rogo has tried to include only the most reliable of information withouth giving too much space to theory or wild speculation.

Aside from the numerous case histories which are quite impressive, Rogo's inclusion of the various types of experiments which have taken place over the years in the field of psychic research is highly fascinating. In the chapter entitled "Six Experiments in Search of the Dead", he outlines several types of experiments which imply that perhaps something does exist the physical body when death takes place. One of the first experiments of this type was carried out by Dr. Duncan MacDougall, a physician in the early 1900's. His method of experimentation was to place dying patients on delicate scales and try to determine whether anything measurable left the body at the moment of death. Another early experiment, suggested by Hereward Carrington and performed by Dr. R. A. Watters, consisted of photographing ionized particles while inside a sealed box. In almost all of the experiments of this type, the results fluctuated, thus making any type of real hypothesis difficult.

One particular aspect which does not show up often in books on psychical research is that of experimentation with drugs and their influence, if any, on enhancing psychic energies, especially telepathy and precognition. The highly interesting experiments of Dr. Stanley Krippner, involving psilocybin and experiences while under the influence of lysergic acid diethlamide (LSD-25), amanita muscaria, and marijuana may one day prove significant. In some instances the influence of these substances does appear to affect and enhance psychic abilities. In other cases normal chance or below average scores are the result. Thus, Rogo and other researchers have determined that to date there is insufficient evidence as to whether the ingestion of such substances increases ESP or has any effect at all.

Although Exploring Psychic Phenomena conveys to the reader--and quite intelligently so--the various aspects of psychical research, one point which perhaps should be included is that of hauntings, ghosts, and poltergeist (RSPK) phenomena. Although a surfeit of such cases have been reported in various books and publications, I feel the omission of such information is unwarranted. Why a distinguished author and researcher such as Rogo would leave out such information, which would certainly fit inot the field of psychic research, is beyond my comprehension.

Nevertheless, Rogo has produced a very up-to-date book. Some of the information is quite new and some classic in the field, but still interesting. He has given the reader a concise collection of information which appears highly reliable. Several of the terms used in this book are rather new and Rogo has omitted obsolete terms once used in the field. And although there are several subjects left out which I think should have been included, Exploring Psychic Phenomena is well written and I recommend it for both the advanced researcher and those only mildly interested. An excellent example of good hard work.

-----David J. Winn

When I received the #18 issue of Robert JM Rickard's excellent Fortean Times my mind reeled with possibilities. He compiled in this issue a listing of Forteana from 1976. The chronology was entitled "Diary of a Mad Planet" and consisted of many reports of Fortean interest expertly arranged by date. At the end of the feature there was a table analyzing the year Fortean-wise by date.

One prolem with chronological listings of any type on paper is that occasionally you will learn of a certain report or two after the listing is typed up. If, however, the reports are on index cards you can add listings whenever you have to. You can also remove reports that turn out to be erroneous. An index card listing of Fortean report would be easy to use and very versatile . . .

Another good feature of index card chronologies is that you can work with the reports. Cards can be juggled about into different categories which makes statistical breakdowns much easier. Even if the cards are disarranged they can be returned to proper chronological order with relative ease.

For the year 1977 and beyond, ARB will carry a chronological listing of reports. The reports are physically designed to fit on four by six inch index cards, so, if any reader would like to catalogue 1977 Forteana for research purposes, all he/she has to do is xerox the pages that follow, cut out the reports, and attach them (tape or glue) to 4 by six inch filing cards.

In most instances, the summary will fit on the front side of the card--if not, the narrative can easily be continued on the reverse side. Readers not interested in constructing the index card listings will find the format used to publish the summaries of interest. The reports are short, hopefully concise, and by using summaries ARB will be able to carry that much more information. The wide margins will permit readers to make annotations in the empty space.

Since summaries are being published, those readers wishing copies of the complete report should send a self-addressed-stamped-envelope along with a request specifying the appropriate data. For example, if you want further information on the first report of '77 listed in this issue, your request should look something like this:

"Please send complete information on the following report:

"1977--Jan. 1; Texas; animal attack--possible mystery cat. Appeared in ARB5."

We'll be able to provide information free to an extent. Just make sure that you need the material--if you need quite a few reports where we'll have to do a lot of Xeroxing you may be charged a small fee (or we can work out some type of data exchange).

Most of the summaries in this issue are taken from newspaper clippings sent in by a few hard researchers. Hopefully more readers will start to scan their local newspapers and publications for material. We need clippings, the results of investigations, an so on. In order to get a good representative sample of material, readers should sent in as much material as possible. The listing will never be complete, but we'd like to have it as complete as possible for end of the year analysis, etc. Since we are using an index card listing, don't hesitate to send in material a few months old --just as long as it's from '77. Material from other years is, of course, needed also, but older material will be printed in other sections of ARB. Also, since were are only printing summaries, important data from '77 (let's hope there's lots of it!) will be printed in full elswhere in this publication along with being listed in the chronology.

I've taken up way too much room already, so let's get on with it. The format is self-explanatory, and the reports are listed in chronological order. May 1977 be a significant year for Forteans worldwide.

-----David Fideler

1977--January 1 or 2 Saturday or Sunday

North Harris County, Texas (USA)

Four cows were killed and ten others were mauled by "two big cats." Cougar tracks were found nearby. Strangely, the killed animals were not eaten. Local residents are frightened by the incident.

Sherman (Texas) Democrat, Jan. 5, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--January 4 Tuesday
"Late"
Grayson Springs, Kentucky (USA)

Five dead cattle were found on Jan. 6; two of the bodies being mutilated. "They had their ears cut off, eyes cut out, udders cut, (and) nipples cut off. These parts, along with other body organs, were missing from the scene and yet to be found." Little blood was found in the area. All five animals apparently were beaten and one animal appeared to have been choked to death. Other mutilations have been reported in different parts of Kentucky "and an intense state-wide investigation is underway."

Grayson Co. News, Jan. 13, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--January 4 Tuesday
11:45 PM PST
Prince George, British Columbia (Canada)

A tremor was felt that "sounded like a dull thud." Mundane explanations have been ruled out, and the "thud" remains a mystery.

Res Bureaux Bulletin #13; Orig. Source: Prince George Citizen, Jan. 14, 1977; CR: X

1977--January 6 or 7 Thursday or Friday

Nr. Conoloway, Kentucky (USA)

A cow was killed with a shotgun and mutilated. This incident took place on the farm of Don White and officials are investigating. The reported cattle mutilation of Jan. 4, '77 also took place in the same general region (Grayson Co.).

Grayson County News, Jan. 13, 1977; CR: Jerry Clark via Tom Adams.

1977--January 7 Friday

Argentina

A man was killed by "a swarm of vicious African bees." This was the third attack in Argentina in eight days.

Dallas Morning News, Jan. 9, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--January 10 Monday

Wakefield, New Hampshire (USA)

An object apparently fell from the sky onto ice covering a pond owned by William McCarthy. The object after landing on the ice, melted a hole in it, and sunk to the bottom of the pond. The object was apparently highly radioactive and was carted away by gov't officials. See report in this issue (ARB5) for further details.

Numerous sources--probably the best being: The Boston Herald American, Jan. 14, 1977; CR: Loren Coleman & many others.

1977--January 10 Monday

Zaire

Nyragongo, the second-highest active volcano in Africa, erupted. 2,000 were reported dead at first, although this was in error and there were no, or very few, victims.

Toledo Blade, Jan. 13, 1977.

1977--January 13 Thursday
4:20 AM EST
Peterboro & Northumberland Counties, Ont. (Can.)

A large number of people were awakened by a "wump" which shook beds, etc. There was no seismic activity and other mundane phenomena have been ruled out as a cause. There was no damage, but household items vibrated.

Res Bureaux Bulletin #13; Cobourg Daily Star, Jan. 13; The Globe and Mail, Jan. 14; The Toronto Sun, Jan. 14, 1977; CR: X & Gene Duplantier.

1977--January 14 Friday
Daytime
Talihina, Oklahoma (USA)

According to residents, there is a "mysterious black cat" roaming the area surrounding Talihina, Okla. The Herman Coussen family has heard the anim al in the past. Early Friday morning, Mr. Coussen fed several ducks near a pond on his ranch. However, later that evening the birds were missing and "panther tracks," four inches across, were found in the area. The birds' disappearance is generally believed to have been the work of the cat.

Talihina (Oklahoma) American, Jan. 20, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--January 15 Saturday

Abilene, Texas (USA)

The family of W. T. Willis was sitting down to eat when they heard a loud noise. Upon investigating, they found an eight inch hole in the roof and a matching opening in their ceiling. An Abilene policeman, called to the home to investigate, took a phone call in which the caller said, "This is only a warning." (Emphasis mine. Shades of Mothman Prophecies--DF.) A complete search was made, yielding nothing. There was no lightning in the area, and nearby Dyess Air Force Base reported no aircraft part losses. Police and U.S. Treasury Dept. agents are investigating.

Dalla/Morning News, Jan. 16, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--January 15 Saturday

New York, New York (USA)

Nancy Whitehead was walking her dog, a six-month-old husky, on Convent Ave. between 144th and 145th streets near City College. The dog stepped on a patch of sidewalk that was free of ice or snow. The animal howled, its hair standing on end. It ran a few feet and then fell down and died. An autopsy showed that the dog's death was caused by respiratory failure and cardiac arrest --indicating possible electrocution. A utility employee ran a test with a light bulb; when the bulb was held against the sidewalk it glowed brightly. A spokesman for Consolidated Edison said that the incident was being looked into.
The Wash. Post, Jan. 21, 1977; CR: Ronald Kelly.

1977--January 17 Monday
"Night"
Natchez, Mississippi (USA)

Residents reported seeing an "almost human" creature to the local police. Three occupants of one house described the entity as "a huge, hairy creature, well over six feet tall, and dark, and barefoot and naked." The witnesses reported that the creature walked with a limp and appeared curious, as if it wanted something. The creature growled at a dog and fled when the police's patrol car approached. Police found large footprints, broken limbs, and other evidence that something was in the area. Police reported that they had received similar reports during the winter.

The States-Item, Jan. 19; Arkansas Gazette; Natchez Democrat, Jan. 20, 1977; CR: Ann Slate, Lou Farish, and Tom Adams.

1977--January 20 Thursday

Summerville, South Carolina (USA)

"An earth trmor hit the Summerville area, causing no damage but frightening many residents... David Schimpf of the U.S. Geological Survey office in Charleston said the tremor registered 3.0 on the Richter scale and was centered between Summerville and St. George, about 25 miles northeast of Charleston."

Dallas Morning News, Jan. 20, 1977; CR: Tom Adams

1977--January 23 Sunday
"Late" Sunday night
Nr. Ingalic Creek, Washington (USA)

A Blewett Pass ranch hand, along with his nephew, reported to the Chelan Co. sheriff's office, that they chased and shot at a seven-foot tall gorilla-like animal. Dean DeWess, 40, caretaker at the Brendera Ranch said he heard a disturbance near the chicken coop. He and his nephew, Dave Kernoul, 30, investigated and saw the animal. Kernoul fired four shots at the creature and believed that it was hit by at least one bullet. The creature left the scene shortly after the shots were fired, but came back later and grabbed some chickens.

Yakima Republic, Jan. 25, 1977; CR: Ann Slate

1977--January 23 Sunday

Nr. Berkley, California (USA)

A mild earthquake rattled local windows but couldn't be felt outside of the immediate area. The quake, which centered on the Hayward fault line a few miles south of the university, wasn't strong enough to cause any damage.

Toledo Blade, Jan. 24, 1977.

1977--January 27 (or before) Thursday

Americana (Brazil)

Seven people were hospitalized after a swarm of African "killer bees" stung 38 persons in Americana. Police reported that the bees first attacked a coachman named Benedito Rosseti and his horse on Americana's main street. The insects then turned on a crowd "attracted by Roseti's shouts." A fire brigade was called out to fight the bees.

Dallas Morning News, Jan. 28, 1977; CR: Tom Adams

1977--February 1 Tuesday
4:30 PM
Rio de Janeiro--and other locations--(Argentina)

For about two hours a white ash fell from the sky. Officials at the meteorology department attibuted it to either forest fires or industrial combustion in the absence of a more plausable explanation.

Res Bureaux Bulletin #13; CR: X via J. Kloosterman.

1977--February 4 Friday
"Early"
Northern Argentina

A strong earthquake hit a mountainous region in northern Argentina early in the day. There were no immediate reports of victims or damages.

Toledo Blade, Feb. 5, 1977;

1977--February 6 Sunday

Nr. Mayport, Florida (USA)

For some unknown reason 200 pilot whales tried to beach themselves. At least 72 whales died.

Toledo Blade, Feb. 7, 8, & 9, 1977

1977--February 10 Thursday
"Around 8 PM"
Roseping, Louisiana (USA)

Ronnie Philpot Jr., four years old, wandered off away from home Thursday afternoon while playing outdoors. More than 200 persons, including sheriff's deputies, searched for him for several hours. About 8 p.m. Larry James heard some coyotes wailing in the woods. James set off to investigate as several of his calves had been attacked by wild animals during the recent past. "James found the boy in good health, but surrounded by six howling coyotes..." The youth was treated at the Ft. Polk Army Hospital.

Sherman (Texas) Democrat, Feb. 13, 1977; CR: Tom Adams

1977--February 11 Friday

Nr. Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania (USA)

A cow with five legs was born on the farm of Chester Erb. Erb commented, "If Mother Nature is producing a calf with a leg to kick flies away, what kind of flies can we expect?"

Paris (Texas) News, Feb. 25, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--Feb. 18, 19, & 20 Fri., Sat., & Sun.

Brazil (border area nr. Guyana)

In the period of three days there have been more that 15 bee attacks reported. Soldiers have been attacked by the "dreaded African 'killer bees' of South Amercia." Since the begining of the year, 19 Guyana families have fled their homes after being attacked by the bees.

Dallas (Texas) Times Herald, Feb. 21, 1977; CR: Tom Adams.

1977--February 19 Saturday

Nr. Near Islands

An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter Scale was reported in the vicinity of the Near Islands in the North Pacific Aleutian chain.

Toledo Blade, Feb. 20, 1977;

C O M P L E T E R E P O R T S

N.H. NATIVES "SAW" MYSTERY OBJECT, STATE OFFICIAL SAY THEY DIDN'T

(Depending on whom you believe, a radioactive object was retrieved yesterday from a pond on Bill McCarthy's far in Wakefield, N.H.--or it was only a figment of people's imaginations. Here are the two versions, one from eye-witnesses and the other from equally-positive government officials, as compiled by staff writer Robert Keeley.)

EYEWITNESSES:

Wakefield, N.H.--New Hampshire National Guard troops and State Police yesterday removed an unidentified object from a Wakefield pond and rushed it to Concord, apparently for analysis, according to eyewitnesses.

Wakefield Police Chief Michael Senecal told reporters he knew what was retrieved. Asked what it was, he replied, "No comment."

So the mystery--which began last Monday when the object reportedly fell from the sky into the pond--deepened.

Reporters pressed Senecal to give out some information, but he replied he was "under a gag order" issued directly from Gov. Meldrim Thomson and the state attorney general's office.

"I can't tell you what it is, but it is safe to day it is not a space ship," the police chief said.

William and Dorthy McCarthy, who own the farm on which the pond is located, were telling all they know.

Mrs. McCarthy said her husband was in the family room Monday afternoon when he looked out and saw the pond was melting despite near zero weather . . .

"Ice and snow don't melt for nothing around here," said Mrs. McCarthy. "We were in the midst of a blizzard and the temperature was near zero."

McCarhy and his daughter, Kathy, walked out to the pond and discovered a three-foot-square hole in the ice which was two-to-three feet thick, Mrs. McCarthy said.

She continued that her husband used a pole to poke around in the hole and observed what appeared to him to be a black flat object about 24-inches square, with a round, bubble-like protuberance. He prodded it with the pole, she added.

The pond, which is man-made and about 50 feet in diameter, melted in more than one spot, Mrs. McCarthy continued.

"There definitely was something different in the pond," she asserted. "Ponds do not melt in the dead of winter. This is not Miami Beach."

Like everyone else, Mrs. McCarthy remains befuddled by it all.

"At first we were told there was a high radioactive reading from the scene and that the state wanted to quarantine us," she said. That was after the McCarthys reported the matter to police after the ice started to melt.

She said Chief Senecal arrived with a geiger counter that Monday night and reported high radiation in the area. She added that secrecy seemed to surround the matter after the attorney general's office was called in.

Meanwhile, excitement was the commodity of the day in this normally quiet town of less than 2,000 population, located near the Main border.

Hundreds of visitors--including newsmen from far-flung states--descended on the farm, which the McCarthys had chosen as a quiet refuge from Massachusetts seven years ago.

Spectators were held some 300 yards from the farm yesterday while the National Guard attempted unsuccessfully to pump out the pond. Failing this, large ice saws were used to a six-by-three foot rectangular hole in the ice.

Eyewitnesses in the crowd said they saw workers place the object--whatever it was--into a metal box. The box was placed in a van, believed to be a National Guard vehicle, and driven away.

After the alleged object was carted away, Senecal told reporters he knew what it was but couldn't talk. He then went to the Palmer's Motel, center of the town's activity, and told Bob and Charlotte Palmer there was nothing to worry about because nothing was found, according to eyewitnesses.

STATE OFFICIALS:

Concord, N.H.--State officials habe found no unidentified object and no radiation in that now-famous little pond in Wakefield, Gov. Meldrim Thomson announced yesterday.

He gave the "all clear" after National Guardsmen and State Police cut through the ice, searched the bottom and reportedly carried away nothing but mud and water for analysis.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Gregory Smith reported to the governor after the search was over that the probe "has proved the whole thing is false."

"The entire matter was caused by false preliminary instrument readings," said Roland Jenkins, a spokesman for the governor.

The excitement began Monday after Mr. and Mrs. William McCarthy reported that an object had fallen into a pond behind their farmhouse and had melted ice which had been two-to-three feet thick. Subsequently, Geiger counter readings reportedly showed radiation in the area.

But Jenkins said that equipment was "faulty."

Other state and federal officials contacted agreed wtih the governor's official assessment (sic). There was no radioactive object in the pond and the whole matter had been blown out of proportion.

In a prepared statement, Thomson said that what may have looked like somethong on the bottom of the pond was "the result of shadows of cracked ice."

National Guard Adjutant Gen. John Blatsos, said he called various installations to determine whether any government equipment had fallen from the sky.

"I called Pease Air Force Base to see if something fell off an airplane," said Blatsos. "I called the satellite station. Nothing."

He explained a Civil Defense worker had thought he heard a "beep" on a geiger counter earlier in the week. But tests yesterday found the pond free from radiation, he added.

Blatsos said that plastic bags seen by eyewitnesses at the site could have been used for lowering monitoring equipment into the water for better readings. He also noted that officials were taking water and soil samples in the area.

After state investigators had left the scene, Charles Regan, a college-student from Portsmouth, took a reading with his own geiger counter.

He said the mud he tested registered high radioactivity.

However, government spokesmen were depending on their own readings with their own equipment--not on unofficial reports.

Meanwhile, Asst. Atty. Gen. Thomas Rath announced that rock and soil samples from the floor of the pond were taken by state public health authorities to the state labratory for examination.

Also checking out the pond for the state were the Fish and Game Dept. and the New Hampshire Disaster Office.

The above story is reproduced word-for-word from The Boston Herald American, Jan. 14, 1977; CR: Loren Coleman.

MYSTERIOUS TREMOR CALLED EARTH SHIFT.

MOSCOW (UPI)--A mysterious tremor in the Gulf of Finland October 25 probably was part of the shifting of the earth's crust under the melting Baltic ice, Soviet physicist Mikhail A. Sadovsky said Tuesday in the government newspaper Izvestia. The movement has been going on for more than 10,000 years, the physicist said.

Arkansas Gazette, Jan. 5, 1977; CR: Lou Farish. Editor's Note: This incident was reported in ARB4 and the date of the report was erroneously cited as Nov. 26, 1976. It should read Oct. 26, 1976.--DF.

WISCONSIN FARM POND SITE OF THE GREAT 'GATOR HUNT.

MONROE, Wis. (UPI)--An alligator-like footprint, a mysterious bellow like a"sick cow" and strange spashing noises in a farm pond have touched off an alligator hunt in this unlikely spot.

Tom Neumann, 14, discovered the footprint--the first evidence since 1971 that a mail order alligator from Florida that escaped on the farm may have survived the Wisconsin winters to grow to a six-foot adult.

Tom's mother said the footprint was a mystery and the pond had been dredged without further signs of the alligator.

Young Neumann said the prints of four clawlike toes and a heel measured about four inches from back to front.

Mrs. Neumann said her children have been swimming in the pond regularly and had been hearing splashing noises, particularly at night, but had never seen anything unusual.

Zoo official Ray Pawley asked her if they had ever heard anything like a mating call and she said they had heard a bellow "like a sick cow." "That could be an alligator seeking a mate," Pawley told her.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

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Additions to the 1977 Fortean Chronology
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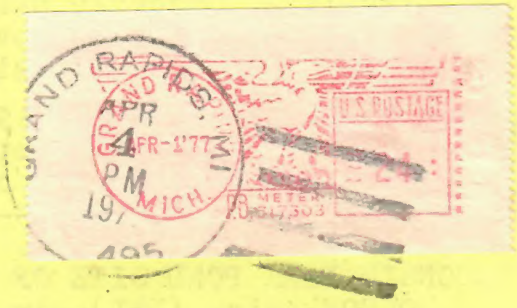

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